

too frequently, at this period, make more haste to obtain the object of their wishes than is proper. It is no wonder therefore that the dreams just mentioned made a very great impression on Joseph's mind. Suspecting no evil, and meaning no harm, he exultingly told his brethren: "In my sleep I dreamed that we were employed in gathering the fruits of the field; we had each bound up a sheaf of corn, and laid them on the ground, when, to my great surprize, they all arose as if they had been endued with animal life; mine stood in the middle, and yours, having formed a circle round it, bowed and rendered homage to it." You may imagine, my dear reader, what an effect this speech would have on his envious brethren. They one and all cried, "Thou contemptible being, dost thou think to reign over us?" But the good nature and innocence of Joseph prevented him from resenting this abusive language; and, in the most artless way he recited to them  
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another dream which he had:—"I dreamed (said he) a more strange dream than the first; for I saw the Sun and Moon and eleven Stars; and they made obeisance, and intimated their subjection to me." "What! (exclaimed his brethren) shall thy Father and Mother, and eleven Brethren bow down to thee!" And on account of these dreams they plotted his destruction; which we shall relate more particularly in the next chapter, and conclude the present, by observing—That young persons ought not in general to take any notice of their dreams, as they are, for the most part, only the productions of a roving fancy, pursuing incoherently transactions that are past. Nevertheless, Almighty God has sometimes revealed his will to his servants, in extraordinary cases, in this way.

CHAP.